

FACTS ABOUT EAST TENNESSEE.

The Work We Have Before Us.

NO. 1.

An extended tour through fifteen States and close observation of the people, resources and inducements of the country through which the writer has passed, have but strengthened the convictions entertained twelve months ago, when the series of articles, of which this is part, was determined upon—that East Tennessee was more favored by natural advantages than any section of the Union. Looking back now over the varied resources of the sections visited, from the orange groves of Florida to the ice-bound lakes and rivers of the extreme North, from the sandy, unproductive pine wastes of Southern Georgia and the Carolinas to the highly cultivated farm gardens and fruitful vineyards of New York and Ohio, we see new reasons for hoping that in this delightful climate free alike from the extreme rigors of Northern winters and the oppressive heat of protracted Southern summers; in our fertile valleys and uplands, yielding abundantly of either grains, grasses or fruits, and in our great water power and unsurpassed beds of coal, iron, marble and other minerals and quarries, we have the elements for rearing in East Tennessee a people building upon the solid foundations of prosperous farming and industrial interests, a future as promising and enduring as can be hoped for by any section of this great nation.

We have spent some labor and means in endeavoring to impress upon that constantly growing class who are looking South for homes in a more genial and healthful climate these great facts, and we have the satisfaction of knowing from personal observation that our efforts, together with those of our real estate agents, have been successful. In every section of the States visited we have found men of high character and capital seriously entertaining the idea of making their homes with us. Of all the South, East Tennessee alone presents to the Northern immigrant the desired advantages. They find in our climate, in our varied resources, and in the kindly feelings of our people the inducements desired.

Having spent some time in the work referred to, and having at least inaugurated the great movement, we have now some suggestions to offer to our readers and friends in East Tennessee, which we think if followed, would greatly facilitate the work in which we are persuaded that they have as deep an interest as ourselves. We base these suggestions, of course, upon the supposition that our people want more labor, more capital and more enterprise, or in other words, Immigration. The first thing to do to invite this is to offer land at reasonable rates. We would be foolish to expect to offer our lands as cheap as it can be bought in the far west and immigrants looking here for homes do not expect this, for as a class, they prefer our section for reasons other than mere cheap lands. But while this is the case, they do not expect to pay as much for land here as in the richer sections of more populous States. We ought to sell our lands reasonably, for we have too much of it half farmed, and too much of it not farmed at all. We have men in East Tennessee farming a thousand acres of land and hardly making a living by it. If they should sell say half or more of that land to an enterprising farmer who would improve it, and their neighbors were to do the same, can they not see that the increase in population and value of the land sold, to say nothing of the benefits they would derive from improved cultivation of the five hundred acres left, would richly reward them for the change. Lands to become valuable must be improved, and they cannot be improved unless divided into smaller tracts to bring population. This is one thing to be accomplished.

Another work to be done is to create a better public sentiment in respect to personal violence.

The impression so generally prevailing North that personal safety here is threatened by the prevailing habit of carrying concealed weapons and shooting on slight provocation, is doing us great harm and can easily be remedied by making known the change in public sentiment gradually taking place in this respect. Every murder advertised does us incalculable harm. Some that have occurred in our city are talked of everywhere and have done us great damage.

With a little co-operation in this work we know the reward will soon come and we will find a steady increase in our population, wealth and prosperity.

DEEPENING THE SOIL.—Most of our farms have from four to ten inches uncultivated soil, which by a gradual process might be brought up to cultivation. It is full of plant food, the deposits of centuries, which only needs the warmth and air and frost to make it available.

THE NEWSPAPERS OF NEW YORK.

Some Facts About the Press of New York City—How the Papers are Edited and by Whom.

[Correspondence Knoxville Chronicle.]

NEW YORK, Dec. 11, 1871.

The press of New York is yearly growing more powerful and useful. There is in no profession greater ability, directed by higher motives than is to be found in the editorial corps of the leading journals of this great city. These men are of course liable to err and are sometimes imposed upon by cunning schemers, but they are as a class as little governed by corrupt influences as any other profession.

The work and money daily bestowed upon the newspapers of this city is very great. The work is always done under a great pressure and the money expended lavishly. Competition is so great that the cost of obtaining the latest and best news never receives consideration.

THE TIMES NEWSPAPER.

Just now the paper most read and talked of in New York is the Times. Its great victory over Tammany is the subject of never ending discussion. The importance of this victory grows, as each day's new developments expose the magnitude and dangers of its operations from which the people have escaped.

Senator Wilson, lately returned from Europe, remarked a few days ago in a conversation, "that very few people in America realize the enormity of the crime against free institutions committed by the Tammany leaders. Everywhere in Europe, in every language, their corruption is used as a strong argument against republican governments." As this fact grows upon the public their appreciation of the services rendered by the press correspondingly increases.

There has been much said about the influence borne to bear to drive off the Times from its fearless assaults. When its proprietors determined on their duty in the premises, they gave orders to the advertising clerks not to take another line of city advertising at any price. They cut loose from the unclean thing and would hold no intercourse with it. The first proposition from the Ring to the Times was to pay it a million dollars if it would cease its attacks. The next proposition came in the shape of a blank check, which its proprietors were authorized to fill up with any amount, provided no further attacks upon Tammany appeared in the paper. Both propositions were indignantly spurned.

How the fight on its part was prosecuted is a matter of history well known. Its editorials will serve as models of their class for all time to come. The excitement in New York grew more with every new assault. The subscription list of the Times doubled in nine weeks. Harpers sold their Weekly with Nast's unrivaled caricatures, by the hundred thousand. The famous Supplement issued by the Times in German and English giving the full list of the fraudulent vouchers went to every part of the world and was printed in every language. There were over 400,000 of the supplements issued. The ten and four cylinder presses in the Times office were run continually for twenty-six hours printing them.

As the excitement increased in New York, Tammany grew more restless. Money having failed to buy off the Press, intimidation was tried. The editors and proprietors of the Times were watched and threats of various kinds sent to them but all to no avail.

Election day came, and though the people were aroused, the Tammany leaders were confident of being sustained. They believed money would carry them through. Even on the morning following the election, Mayor Hall and Tweed could not be persuaded of their overthrow. They had made arrangements to renew on a more extended scale their plundering of the people. One of their plans was to seize the Times office by some sort of process obtained from their tools on the bench, and force the paper to suspend or publish in New Jersey. The many plundering jobs now going under, were to be forced through. The victory last November saved New York many millions, just how many will probably never be known.

SOMETHING ABOUT NEW YORK EDITORS.

The Tribune is one of the best edited papers in the world. There is as much intelligent and well directed labor bestowed upon it as upon any paper published. It has a corps of able vigorous young men in most cases directed by the best judgment available, and certainly always enthusiastic and enterprising. The Herald pays more money for news than the Tribune or Times, but its news is not so well edited or reliable. The Herald entertains no convictions on any subject and yields but little influence. People read it for the news, but they read the Times, Tribune, Harper's or Evening Post, not only for news but also for able and fearless promulgation of their respective opinions on public questions.

An interesting feature of the Tribune's management is the daily criticisms of an experienced journalist, to which all its forces are subjected. This critic compares the Tribune every morning with its rivals. Its merits and defects are fearlessly pictured. Its reports of leading events are compared with the Herald, Herald and Times and other rivals and their superiority in some respects and inferiority in others are pointed out. Its financial and commercial reports for accuracy and fullness are all compared; the style of the editorials and the selection and quantity of matter published criticised. From the first to the last page of the paper every line is carefully read and criticised. When Mr. Whitelaw Reid, the managing editor, goes to his desk at four in the afternoon, he can see from this criticism just in what respect the Tribune has triumphed or been surpassed in enterprising or judgment by its contemporaries. In other words the Tribune office is a daily school for its force and the discipline is thorough.

Horace Greeley is the presiding genius in the Tribune sanctum, but Whitelaw Reid

is his active and able managing editor. A son of Anson Burlingame is one of its rising force.

Mr. L. F. Jennings, formerly of the London Times, is the managing editor of the Times. Mr. Geo. Jones, though not the largest stockholder of the paper, is its active business manager and proprietor. Its fearless and successful war on Tammany and its present vigorous and able defense of Grant's administration have given it an advantage over its rivals, which, if judiciously pressed, will make it far more influential than ever before, and enable it to long maintain the prestige it now enjoys.

Mr. Henry Raymond, the only son of the founder of the Times, and possessing, in many respects, the remarkable genius of his father, is now on the editorial force of the Evening Post, now so ably edited in chief, by Mr. Lewis.

Some interesting facts concerning the Washington offices, the presses and offices of these papers, I may give at some future time.

A. J. R.

OUR NASHVILLE LETTER.

The East Tennessee University—The Agricultural Fund Safe—Report of the Legislative Committee—The Agricultural College a Fixture.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 15.

EDITORS CHRONICLE: The special committee to investigate the East Tennessee University made their report to-day. This report does at once great honor to the impartiality and statesmanship of the committee, and to the integrity and fidelity of the Trustees of the University. The committee report that the Trustees have complied with the requirements of the statute in every particular; that the University owns the necessary amount of property; and the State bonds issued to it are in the hands of the Treasurer and are so endorsed and stamped as to render them entirely valueless in any other hands. The committee, however, state that "they do not think the spirit and intent of the act of Congress have been strictly complied with in that the Board of Trustees do not require all the students who are physically able, to work on the farm, except by way of punishment, when it was clearly contemplated by Congress that practical instructions in agriculture should be a prominent feature in the course of training in said institution." I hope the attention of the trustees will be arrested by this criticism of the committee. The conclusion of the report is so sensible, and shows such eminent impartiality, and is so characteristic of the candor, want of prejudice, and enlarged liberality marking the entire report, that give it in full:

"Your committee, in submitting this report, would most respectfully suggest that it is highly desirable that this question should be finally settled at as early a date as possible, in order that the magnificent gift of Congress may accomplish, to the fullest extent possible, the beneficent object contemplated in the act which donated it to our State. This object can not be attained while there is ever-recurring agitation of the question of new dispositions of the fund and an adding sense of uneasiness as to its permanent location."

JOHN W. COULTER,

Chairman on part of Senate.

J. A. TROSDALE,

Chairman on part of House.

Senator Coulter in presenting the report stated that he hoped the agitation of the removal of any part of the agricultural fund would now cease forever, that the conditions had all been complied with, and that the Legislature had no power, if they had the disposition to interfere with said fund. He moved that the report and the testimony be published in the Appendix in order that the necessity for future investigation might never arise. This motion prevailed. And now we hope there is an end to this controversy. Senator Coulter admitted that he had gone to Knoxville prejudiced against the University and determined, if possible, to find some excuse for legislative interference; but that a full investigation removed his prejudices, and satisfied him not only that the law had been complied with, and that the fund was in safe hands, but that it was utterly out of the power of the Legislature to make any other disposition of said fund.

I will here say that the action of the President and other officers of the University, in being ever anxious to furnish all the information desired, in opening everything to the gaze of the committee; and the hospitality and general politeness with which the committee were received and entertained, had no doubt its influence in inclining the committee to be liberal and statesmanlike. The Legislature has just appointed the Hon. J. M. Coulter a Trustee of the University in place of Mr. Roach deceased.

I congratulate the people of East Tennessee, and especially of Knox county, upon the auspicious results of this investigation.

Yours,

BUTLER'S DUTCH GAP CANAL.—The Richmond Enquirer, of a recent date, says: Dutch Gap Canal is now an object not only of historical, but also of practical interest, to every traveler down the James River. Until quite recently the work was supposed to have been a failure. Butler made the necessary excavation, but was unable to turn the current of the river sufficiently to render the canal useful. The surging flood of last October removed the difficulty, and now steamers and ships of the larger kind may pass safely through it. Workmen are now engaged in widening and variously improving the opening, so as to secure benefits permanently. It may surprise many of our readers who have not looked into the matter closely, to know that the canal seems only forty or fifty yards long, and when it is fully completed vessels will pass this short distance instead of being compelled to make a curve of seven miles, as formerly.

New York I desire to find that Alex plays on the piano and sings.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM NASHVILLE.

Adjournment of the Legislature—Work Done—Changes in Criminal Law—Questions of Taxation—Laws Affecting Courts—Agriculture and Immigration—Justices' Fees—Miscellaneous Laws—Pay of Teachers—Character of the Legislature—Extra Session.

[Special Correspondence Knoxville Chronicle.]

NASHVILLE, Dec. 16, 1871.

EDITORS CHRONICLE: The Legislature adjourned sine die to-day at noon. At that hour every Act had been signed by the Speaker, approved by the Governor, and filed with the Secretary of State. Hitherto a vast deal of confusion has invariably existed at the close of the session, some bills failing to become laws though passed by both Houses, and some becoming laws though not passed by both Houses. As the people have naturally great curiosity to know what was done in the Legislature, I will endeavor to sketch out the

WORK DONE BY THE ASSEMBLY.

Between five and six hundred bills were introduced into the House, and two hundred and fifty-four into the Senate. The number of resolutions introduced was about two hundred and fifty, one hundred of which originated in the Senate. Of the House bills one hundred and one became laws; and of the Senate bills fifty-two became laws. Of the one hundred and fifty-three bills that became laws eight gave an additional justice or notary public to many towns, eleven were in the interest of railroads, sixteen changed county lines to say nothing of many county line bills that were vetoed, twenty-seven were special in their character, forty-eight were purely local, fourteen were general yet did not affect the people particularly, and twenty-nine directly affected the entire State. All of the railroad laws originated in House except two.

CHANGES IN CRIMINAL LAWS.

Among the changes in the criminal laws may be mentioned the following: It is made a misdemeanor to sell liquor within six miles of any iron manufactory. It is a misdemeanor to carry any sort of pistol, except a revolver in the hand, or except when on a journey out of one's county or State, or except by peace officers. It is made a misdemeanor to injure any dam or other improvement in rivers made by the United States. Rape is made a capital offense, commutable, however, to imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than ten years. It is also made a capital offense to obstruct a railroad or railroad car so as to cause death to any person on such railroad or car. Guardians of lunatics are made punishable for breach of trust. The Attorney General is directed to institute both civil and criminal suits against all persons in any way connected with fraudulent issuance or appropriation of State Bonds, and is authorized to employ assistant counsel. All officers with a capias in their hands are authorized to execute it anywhere in the State.

QUESTIONS OF TAXATION.

The ad valorem tax is 40 cents on the hundred dollars. On all submissions before Justices or Recorders a state tax of two dollars. Poll tax unchanged. Parsonages are exempted from taxation; as also are stables kept by tavern-keepers. Land hereafter to be sold for taxes on the first Mondays of July and January, instead of in July only as heretofore. Tax Assessors are hereafter to be appointed at the April Quarterly Court; and must meet in May. A law was also enacted authorizing the Governor to appoint a Commissioner in each county to sell lands bought by the State for taxes. This is a very stringent law, and I warn all whose lands have been sold and bought up by the State to pay up their taxes at once or they will certainly lose their land. Revenue collectors hereafter receive commissions only on the money by them actually collected and paid over. State warrants are made receivable for taxes due the State.

LAWS AFFECTING COURTS.

The rules of chancery practice were revised and important changes made. A Criminal Court was established for Williamson, Maury, Miles and Marshall counties. The times of holding the following courts are changed as follows: Roane Circuit Court changed to second Mondays of April, August and December, but not to go into effect until after the next Circuit Court; Roane Chancery Court changed to second Mondays of March and September; Monroe Chancery Court to be held on first Monday of March next, and thereafter on third Mondays of April and October; Jefferson Chancery Court changed to fourth Mondays of April and October. The courts of Cooke county are hereafter to be held at Clifton instead of "in the dilapidated court house in Newport." Courts are empowered to tax all prosecutors with costs when they wilfully abandon the prosecution. All laws on the subject of changing the venue in the Courts of Record, passed since the Code, are repealed, and the Code left in full force. The courts are required to determine, before all others, suits affecting the revenue, or the right to hold office. The hour for trial in Justices' Courts is noon, unless a different hour is fixed by the officer in his return.

AGRICULTURE AND FARMING.

A Bureau of Agriculture was established, composed of two citizens from each Grand Division of the State, with principal office at Nashville. No compensation is allowed, except fare to Nashville. The lawful height of post and rail and post and plank fences is reduced to four and one-half feet, and of rock fences to four feet. A Bureau of Immigration was also established, composed of one commissioner from each Grand Division, to circulate information and encourage immigration from foreign lands. No compensation is allowed the commissioners.

JUSTICES' FEES.

Justices' fees were increased as follows: For issuing warrant against one defendant, 25 cents; for each additional defendant 10 cents; for subpoena for one witness 25 cents; for each additional witness 5 cents; for rendering judgment, where no litigation,

50 cents; for execution and copy of costs 25 cents; for copy of costs in appeal cases 25 cents; for taking a deposition 100 cents; for transcript of judgment 25 cents, and for criminal warrants 50 cents. The law went into effect the day it passed.

MISCELLANEOUS LAWS.

The fees of county jail physicians are limited to \$1,000 per annum. In some of the large counties these fees exceed \$5,000 per year. The office of State Geologist is revived at a nominal salary of \$3,000 per annum. This revival was in order to obtain the services of the United States Coast Survey in triangulating the State, as remarked in a former letter. Also noted in a former letter the increase of the fees of Registers. The salary of the Attorney General of the State is fixed at \$3,000; and the State retains the copy-right of the reports. No decisions are to be reported except such as establish new principles and such as the Judges may expressly direct. It is estimated that this charge will save the State several thousand dollars in printing per annum, and will save the lawyers the expense of buying twice as many reports as are necessary. Surveyors and entry takers are required to keep the books of either office at the county site. All persons over twenty-one are made eligible to fill municipal offices. The poll tax receipts will be required in the year 1872. The public printing has been so regulated as to prevent over-charging for composition, paper and tokens. Several new counties were established in Middle and West Tennessee. Hugh L. McClung and John L. Moses were appointed Trustees of Hampton Sidney Academy. Dr. Saffold was appointed State Geologist and General Battle Superintendent of the Penitentiary.

GOOD NEWS FOR TEACHERS.

School teachers will be glad to learn that if they take their accounts to the County Trustee of their county, it is made his duty to forward a list of the teacher's names and the amounts due each, along with a school warrant or warrants enough to cover said amounts to the Comptroller, and the Comptroller is directed to issue to each teacher a warrant for the amount due him.

Such has been the work of the session, so far as it is interesting to the people of East Tennessee, and so far as it has not been alluded to in former letters. The various railroad bills, the re-districting bill, the bill to strike Colonel John Baxter, and the bill creating the office of District Attorney for Knox county have all been heretofore explained and ventilated in the CHRONICLE. The merchants' tax, in spite of all their memorials and all their newspaper articles, was not changed. Every railroad bill introduced became a law. The power of the railroad lobby was overwhelming. They obtained all they asked—and paid for it in oyster suppers. Outside of railroad matters and matters in which Jones, Purvis & Co. had an interest, and with the exceptions before stated, the action of the Legislature was, in the main, discreet, cautious and economical. I will here add that the Republican Senators resisted the lobby to the last, and voted against everything like an unnecessary expenditure of public money. I infer from what I have heard that the notion of the Republican Representatives was equally honest and patriotic. The session will be called about the last of April to lay off the State into Congressional Districts. The reason this was not done at the regular session was that Congress has not yet fixed the number of Congressmen we are to have. It is generally agreed however that Tennessee will be allowed nine.

Yours,

Week of Prayer.

The American Evangelical Alliance has issued their circular addressed "To the Christians of America," appointing a Week of Prayer, in January, 1872, as follows:

Sunday, January 7.—SERMONS: Subject: "The Faith once delivered to the Saints,"—the bond of union among Christians; its defence binding on all.

Monday, January 8.—THANKSGIVING: For God's "Unspeakable Gift;" for His mercies, personal, relative and national; for the maintenance and restoration of peace, and preservation from famine and other calamities; for spiritual blessings; for the progress of Christ's kingdom; and for the usefulness of the Christian ministry.

Tuesday, January 9.—HUMILIATION: For personal and national sins, with acknowledgment of Divine judgments; for weakness of faith, disobedience and worldliness in the church, with confession of unfaithfulness.

Wednesday, January 10.—PRAYER: For families; for the conversion of children; for the increase of domestic piety; for a blessing on the youth at schools, colleges and universities, and all entering upon commercial or professional duties; and for the sanctifying of affliction both to parents and children.

Thursday, January 11.—PRAYER: For nations, especially those recently visited with calamities; for kings and all in authority; for the prevalence of peace in the councils of statesmen; for righteousness, harmony and good-will among all classes; for the spread of sound knowledge; and for God's blessing upon special efforts to resist the progress of infidelity, superstition, intemperance and other kinds of immorality.

Friday, January 12.—PRAYER: For the Christian Church and Ministry; for translators of the Holy Scriptures into various tongues; for Societies, Committees and Authors engaged in Christian work.

Saturday, January 13.—PRAYER: For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit; for the increase of Christian love and holy zeal; for all Missionaries at home and abroad; for all Christians exposed to trial and persecution; for the prevalence of religious liberty; for the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom throughout the world, and the union of all believers in prayer and effort for God's glory.

Sunday, January 14.—SERMONS: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven."—MATT. VI. 10.